Recognize Counterfeit Coins? U. S. Treasury Gives Pointers

Pamphlets Distributed at Numismatic Convention.

The United States Treasury Department's display at the current convention of the American Numismatic Association in the Netherland Plaza includes both genuine bills and examples of counterfeit. By way of public education, the department has made available at the convention a pamphlet on how to detect counterfeit bills and coins.

"Know your money," the pamphlet advises. "Compare the suspected bill with a genuine of the same type and denomination. Observe carefully the following features:

"A—Portrait: Genuine is lifelike, stands out from oval background which is a fine screen of regular lines; notice particularly the eyes. The counterfeit is dull, smudgy or unnaturally white; scratchy! background is dark with irregular and broken lines.

"B—Seal: On genuine, sawtooth points around rim are identical and sharp. On counterfeit sawtooth points are usually different, uneven, broken off.

"C—Serial Numbers: Genuine distinctive style, firmly and evenly printed; same color as seal. Counterfeit, style different, poorly printed, badly spaced, uneven in appearance.

"D—Paper: Genuine bills are printed on distinctive paper containing very small red and blue silk threads.

"Rubbing a bill will not prove whether it is genuine or counterfeit; ink will rub off of either.

"Remember, not all strangers are counterfeiters, but all counterfeiters are likely to be strangers.

"Know your money!

"Ring all coins on a hard surface. Genuine coins sound clear and bell-like. Counterfeits sound dull.

"Feel all coins; most counterfeit coins feel greasy.

"Compare the reeding (the corrugated outer edge) of a suspected coin with one known to be geunine. The ridges on genuine coins are distinct and evenly spaced. On counterfeit coins they are poorly spaced and irregular.

"Cut the edge of suspected coins. Most counterfeits are made of soft metal which can be easily cut with a knife.

"Test suspected coins with acid. Scrape the surface and apply drop of acid. If bad, the coin will turn black unless it has a high silver content. Silver test acid solution may be purchased at any drug store."

The convention, bringing together many nationally known collectors, will continue through Thursday. Election of officers is scheduled for Wednesday.

The association, organized in 1891, is the convention guest of the Cincinati Numismatic Association, whose executive committeemen include Christ H. Rembold of the Times-Star, William J. Schultz and Thomas G. Melish, all well-known collectors.

Convention display features include two $100,000 bills. This particular display was sent here by the U. S. Treasury Department. It also includes two $1,000 bills, two $500 bills, and an impressive assortment of bills of smaller denomination.

The whole display, valued roughly at $1,000,000, according to convention officials, includes 100 cases from private owners, 11 cases for a public auction Tuesday night, and six sales tables.

Secret Service agents guard the Treasury Department "Know Your Money" display. There is a heavy insurance policy on every phase of the exhibit, officials said.